

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 229

By Dennis

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize William Pearce Drewry.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, William Pearce “Bill” Drewry is one such extraordinary individual who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, born in Memphis on September 24, 1925, Bill Drewry is the oldest of four children and a descendent of revolutionary war hero, Richard Drewry; and

WHEREAS, during his formative years, Mr. Drewry was an exemplary student, a Boy Scout, and an all-around athlete, lettering in football, basketball, and track before graduating from Memphis Tech High School in 1943; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which the Volunteer State is renowned, Bill Drewry answered duty’s call and enlisted in the United States Army while he was still in high school; and

WHEREAS, after completing his training in gunnery school, Mr. Drewry was sent to England and joined the 951st Heavy Bomb Group, known as “the Mighty Eighth”; and

WHEREAS willing to sacrifice his personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, Bill Drewry completed thirty-five daylight missions over Germany during World War II with the courage and conviction of a true patriot; and

WHEREAS, after the war ended, Mr. Drewry returned to the great State of Tennessee and enrolled in the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he met the love of his life, Ruth McCown Drewry; and

WHEREAS, the loving couple was joined in holy matrimony on October 14, 1950, and their blessed union produced six precious children; and

WHEREAS, for twenty-five years, Mr. Drewry served with acumen and alacrity as an employee with Memphis, Light, Gas, and Water, where he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike due to the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, after working assiduously at Browning Ferris Industries for sixteen years, Bill Drewry decided to take a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, always living life to the fullest, this incredible man continues to thrive in his golden years, spending his days hunting, fishing, enjoying the company of close friends, and hosting family gatherings full of music and laughter; and

WHEREAS, Bill Drewry's remarkable success as a soldier, public servant, and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drewry is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Bill Drewry is most grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife of sixty years, Ruth, and their six children, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drewry is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend William Pearce Drewry for his meritorious service to the good people of Tennessee and America, salute his impeccable character and dedication to excellence, and wish him much happiness in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.